Syllabus

EBIO 306 EEB UNDERGRADUATES INDEPENDENT STUDY

Time and location:
TBD in discussion with the faculty member hosting the student and if needed the instructor. The class involves independent research under the supervision of faculty in the department.

Instructor (office hours by appointment):
Julia B. Saltz
BioSciences at Rice University
Program in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
Anderson Biology 209
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Julia.b.saltz@rice.edu

Pre-requisite(s): BIOS 213 OR EBIO 213 and Instructor permission required

Course objectives and expected learning outcomes:
The program of independent study for students is designed for students interested in BioSciences to conduct mentored research in the field of ecology or evolutionary biology.

Formal assessment occurs in form of posters, written reports, and presentations. Assessment occurs throughout the course of study implicitly during laboratory meetings, and communication with the Instructor.

1) Locate primary scientific literature and demonstrate the ability to use critical thinking and problem solving skills to evaluate published and proposed research in the biological sciences

2) Demonstrate the ability to apply the modern scientific method, including designing experiments and/or building mathematical models, collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data using common statistical methods and software programs.

3) Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills, including an ability to effectively communicate and work with diverse groups and the ability to interpret and communicate the results of original research.

4) Demonstrate scientific and non-scientific laboratory skills including conducting research, lab safety, and using shared materials.

Course structure:
Students are expected to spend at least three hours per week in the laboratory for each semester hour of credit. If receiving two or more credits, students will be required to participate in the university annual undergraduate symposium in the spring semesters

Attendance and participation: Attendance is required; active participation is expected.

Exams: No exams, but if receiving two or more credits, students will be required to participate in the university annual undergraduate symposium in the spring semesters. Students are required to provide the hosting faculty member with regular research reports and updates, which can be in written form and/or in form of presentations (TBD in discussion with the faculty host). Students are expected to join most laboratory activities including lab meetings. Includes a research paper. All written materials (papers and posters) must be provided to the undergraduate student administration office of the EEB program in form of a PDF file upon completion of the course.

Grading: Grading is based on participation, presentations, and attendance. Course can be repeated for credit.

Rice Honor Code: Students are required to follow practices outlined in the Rice Honor Code as available from http://honor.rice.edu/honor-system-handbook/

Accommodations for students with disabilities: Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with the instructor during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential. Students with disabilities also should contact Disability Support Services in Allen Center.